

**METHOD OF AUTOMATIC UPLOADING OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
UML MODELS AND OF THEIR UPDATING**

The present invention pertains to a method of automatic uploading of the  
5 requirements of UML models created by a modeling tool, and of their updating.

When modeling a project, whatever it may be, use is currently made, in a  
preferential manner, of the UML language, implemented in a modeling tool, such as  
"RHAPSODY" from the company I-LOGIX. The modeling requires the  
consideration of requirements, and for this purpose, a requirements management tool  
10 such as "DOORS" from the company TELELOGIC is made available. However,  
there does not exist any means making it possible to ensure the traceability of the  
information of the model so as to keep the requirements management tool informed  
thereof.

The present invention is aimed at a method of automatic uploading of the  
15 requirements of UML models to a requirements management tool so as to allow their  
updating, doing so without limitation on the placement of requirements and their  
number.

The method in accordance with the invention is characterized in that the  
requirements are created during the creation of the elements of the UML model, that  
20 once the model has been stabilized, the requirements entered into the model are  
exported to the requirements management tool and there is created automatically a  
navigation module containing all the UML objects pointed at by at least one  
requirement and a requirements module of level n. Advantageously, the requirements  
module of level n is linked to another upstream requirements module of level n+1  
25 defined previously.

The present invention will be better understood on reading the detailed  
description of an embodiment, taken by way of nonlimiting example and illustrated  
by the appended drawing, in which:

- Figure 1 is a simplified block diagram of an exemplary  
30 implementation of the method of the invention,

- Figure 2 is a chart illustrating the first importation of a UML model into a requirements manager, according to the method of the invention,
- 5       - Figure 3 is a chart illustrating a new importation, under the same conditions (import level 1) as in Figure 2,
- Figure 4 is a chart illustrating a new importation of a UML model, but at a different level (level 2) from that of Figure 3,
- Figure 5 is a chart illustrating the automatic placing of traceability links from the module to other DOORS modules according to the method of the invention,
- 10       - Figure 6 is a chart in four steps, illustrating the successive operations intervening during a new iteration of importing of a UML model into a requirements manager, according to the method of the invention, and
- 15       - Figures 7 and 8 are charts showing two states of a Requirements module of the requirements manager, respectively before and after a new importation, according to the method of the invention.

Represented in Figure 1 are the main elements of the architecture of the system implementing the invention. These elements are: a UML modeler (1), which is, preferably, the "RHAPSODY" tool, a tool (2) for managing UML Requirements, which is, in the present case, the "DOORS" tool, a workshop of utilities (3), which is here "DOORS Custom" from the company THALES AVIONICS and a universal inter-tools connection connector (4) "PAPEETE" (forming the subject of a patent application from the company THALES). The importation of UML models into the DOORS tool from the RHAPSODY tool is done in the following manner.

During the first importation of a UML model from RHAPSODY to DOORS (see Figure 2), there is creation of two modules in DOORS:

- A module (5) of UML\_DOORS Requirements corresponding to the specification level (level 1 for the example represented). This DOORS module contains the set of UML\_DOORS Requirements which represent the stereotyped UML Requirements with the specification level chosen during

the importation. This module 5 here contains the level 1 requirements of the model. These requirements are, for this example: HLR\_01, LLR\_01 and HLR\_03.

- A UML navigation module (Surrogate UML Module) (6): this DOORS  
5 module contains a representation of the set of UML elements of the model created in RHAPSODY. This representation is in the form of reference to the UML elements. This module has as objective to allow navigation between RHAPSODY and DOORS (as set out in the "DOORS Custom User Guide" manual).

10 The following importations of the same UML model can be of two different types. Either, as represented in the example of Figure 3, it involves the same specification level as previously (level 1 in this instance). In this case, at one and the same time the UML\_DOORS Requirements Module and the UML navigation  
15 Module are updated as a function of the modifications made to the UML model. Or, as represented in Figure 4, they pertain to a different specification level (level 2 in this instance, involving the requirements HLR\_02 and LLR\_02). In this case, there is creation of a UML\_DOORS Requirements module corresponding to the specification level selected (level 2) during the importation and updating of the UML navigation  
Module as a function of the modifications made to the model.

20 The links between a UML\_DOORS Requirement and its representation in the UML navigation Module are created automatically during the importation of the UML model under DOORS. These links allow navigation between the two tools RHAPSODY and DOORS.

The creation of links to other DOORS requirements modules is carried out in the  
25 following manner. After having performed an importation of a RHAPSODY model into DOORS, it is possible to automatically create the links between Requirements of the module created automatically and Requirements of another DOORS module or those of another module created automatically previously. This automatic creation of links is performed with the DOORS TREK utility "Create links by key ...". Thus, as  
30 represented in Figure 5, during the importation of the specification level X, traceability links are created between the Requirements module of level X and, on

the one hand, the requirements module of level X-1, and on the other hand a module of quite another requirements specification level (SSS in this case) .

The management of the modifications made to the requirements relating to the UML model is carried out in the following manner.

5       The management of the modifications of the requirements implies the capacity to navigate between the RHAPSODY tool and the DOORS tool. Specifically, it is necessary to be capable of rapidly analyzing the impact of modifications of the upstream requirements on the UML model so as to apply the appropriate modifications to the elements implicated by this impact and conversely.

10       To carry out the modification of UML\_DOORS Requirements, it is not necessary to modify under DOORS the attributes of the UML\_DOORS Requirements specified in the UML Requirements (as explained in the Guide to UML requirements modeling). These modifications must be performed only in the UML model under RHAPSODY.

15       Subsequent to a modification of DOORS Requirements, for each UML-DOORS Requirement which refines it (as explained in the DOORS Guide) it is necessary to:

1. navigate, with the aid of the DOORS/RHAPSODY navigation tool, to the associated UML Requirement,
2. analyze the impact on the modeling of the modification to be performed,
- 20   3. update the model
4. update the UML Requirement in the model,
5. import the modified model under DOORS,
6. update the requirements management attributes under DOORS,

Any model modification must be performed taking account of the UML  
25   Requirements which have a repercussion on the elements modified so as to maintain consistency between the UML Requirements and the UML model.

To do this, for each modified UML element it is necessary to consult the set of UML Requirements which have a repercussion thereon, so as to verify that these requirements are always consistent with the modification performed on the element.

30       To manage the changes to a model manifested by successive modifications, the mechanism of successive importations is firstly examined. The importation of a

UML model under DOORS is performed in several steps. These steps are invisible to the user, since they are performed in one go during importation. The main steps of this mechanism of successive importations have been illustrated in Figure 6. This figure comprises four charts (referenced 1 to 4).

- 5      In the initial state (1), we have, in DOORS, a UML\_DOORS Requirements module linked to a UML navigation module (by navigation links), these modules generated automatically during an earlier importation are dubbed "former".

When a request to import the UML model aimed at an updating of these two modules arrives, the following actions are engaged:

- 10      - creation of two new modules (2):
- a UML\_DOORS Requirements Module containing the set of UML\_DOORS Requirements corresponding to all the UML Requirements contained in the new UML model imported,
  - a UML navigation module representing the new UML model,
- 15      - deletion of the former UML navigation module and of all the DOORS elements relating to it (3),
- analysis of the updates to be performed between the two UML\_DOORS Requirements Modules,
  - updating of the former UML\_DOORS Requirements Module (4),
- 20      - deletion of the new UML\_DOORS Requirements Module (4),
- creation of the navigation links between the former UML\_DOORS Requirements Module and the new UML navigation Module.

The user must thereafter update the links for traceability with the upstream requirements. This step is not included in the importation of the UML model, but

25      must be performed separately after each importation with the aid of the DOORS TREK utility "Create links by key ...".

The management of the changes can thereafter relate to the addition of requirements. If a UML Requirement is added to the model, there will be, during the following importation, for one and the same specification level, and one and the

30      same UML model, creation of a new DOORS object in the corresponding UML navigation Module and in the corresponding UML navigation Module.

By way of simplified example, represented in Figure 7 is the state of the UML\_DOORS Requirements Module before a new importation, and which comprises the Requirements EXI\_01 to EXI\_04 (in version v1). Represented in Figure 8 is the state of this Module after a new importation, EXI\_02 being modified (coexisting versions v1 and v2), and with a new Requirement EXI\_05 (version v2).

Likewise, if a UML Requirement already imported during a previous importation is deleted from the model, during the following importation, the UML-DOORS Requirement corresponding to the UML Requirement, will not be deleted from the UML\_DOORS Requirements Module, but will take the status "OBSOLETE" and all its DOORS links will be destroyed.

If a UML Requirement already imported during a previous importation is modified in the model, there will be, during the following importation,:

- creation of a new UML\_DOORS Requirement corresponding to the UML Requirement
- creation of a link between the former and the new UML\_DOORS Requirement
- transfer of the incoming and outgoing links from the former to the new UML\_DOORS Requirement
- updating of the version number on the new UML\_DOORS Requirement with respect to the former.

A journal of the modifications of requirements is thus obtained.

In conclusion, the method of the invention makes it possible to upload automatically under DOORS all the traceability information entered into the UML model. It automatically organizes under DOORS the whole process necessary for navigation between the two tools via the connector PAPEETE or an XML link (or equivalent). Finally it automatically organizes the whole updating of the modules during the various changes to the UML model.